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Ministry of Advanced Education

NEW GIS DEGREE PROGRAM APPROVED FOR SELKIRK COLLEGE

CASTLEGAR – A new bachelor of geographic information systems program has been approved for Selkirk College, increasing degree opportunities in high technology sectors, Advanced Education Minister Murray Coell announced today.

The new program will build on three nationally accredited diplomas in environmental science disciplines, as well as diploma programs at other colleges and universities. It will focus on operational and applied research, and includes a real world practicum project during the final semester. The program will focus on remote sensing, databases and Internet mapping.

"Our degree authorization process – together with our expansion of the public post-secondary education system – is helping meet our commitment to increase opportunities in technology sectors," said Coell. "The skilled technologists and technicians who graduate from British Columbia's world-class provincial institutes like Selkirk College are in high demand around our province."

Graduates of this program will be well prepared to work as GIS analysts, applications specialists, project managers, land and resource managers and planners. GIS is one of the fastest growing sub-sectors and is finding wider application in a number of other industries such as economic development, small and medium business and health.

"Selkirk College is continuing to develop programs that serve a local and regional need," said Selkirk College president Marilyn Luscombe. "The new program in particular is maximizing student opportunities and providing students a competitive advantage in the workplace."

Since 2003, more than 100 undergraduate and graduate degrees have been approved, helping B.C. improve its competitiveness and productivity through education and skills training, part of government's Pacific Leadership Agenda.

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